LEARNING FROM BEST PRACTICES:
LESSONS FROM UTAH, GEORGIA, PENNSYLVANIA, SINGAPORE, AND ISRAEL

The five full case studies are attached as appendices. The innovative activities fall into the four categories of policies shown in Table 1. Those policy approaches are well-grounded in theory (see inset on previous page). Table 2 summarizes the strategies employed by each of the case study governments.

TABLE 1: Four Approaches to S&T Policy Used by Case Study Governments

Supporting high tech companies and facilitating R&D activities

Theory and evidence support the belief that innovative high tech companies can serve as engines of economic growth and enhance a region's global competitiveness. That has led the case study governments to develop various financial, technical, and legal programs to make high tech businesses more viable, and to induce more R&D.

Facilitating university-industry partnerships and commercialization

The profiled regions have developed many programs designed to bring research from university labs to the marketplace. Those programs provide financial support for the commercialization of university research and create vehicles to facilitate interaction between universities and industries.

Investing in human capital

Sustained long-run economic growth requires technological transformation and structural change. The leading technology regions are investing heavily in programs to enable the workforce to learn and re-learn the competencies and skills required in that dynamic economic world. That includes, for example, basic literacy, including a working knowledge of science and math, lifelong and distance learning, displaced workers programs, and incentives to increase interest in science and engineering fields.

Harnessing information technology

A region must have a well-developed, well-utilized information network to be competitive in the knowledge economy. The leading technology regions are investing substantially to develop information networks linking schools, governments, private companies, and other organizations, allowing their citizens to access an ever-expanding amount of information.